## 1 50099/SDB/V165

ABSTRACT

An apparatus associated with a device connected to a data loop processes data received from the data loop to determine whether data from the data loop is to be routed back to the data loop. The apparatus may determine how to route data based on an analysis of whether the device is authorized to participate in a conversation currently associated with the data loop. Thus, latency otherwise imparted by the device when the device processes the data may be avoided.

15

10

5

20

SDB/dlf

25

CAH PAS531068.1-\*-11/6/03 9:37 AM

30

35